4DM813 – EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
Reformed Theological Seminary
Summer Term, 2010
Professors: Samuel H. Larsen, D.Min., Ph.D.
(5/17/10)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

3 hours. An examination of theoretical models of intercultural communication and the processes of intercultural adaptations that affect the communication process. Emphasis is given to practical application of intercultural communication concepts.

Professor of Record:

Sam Larsen is Professor Emeritus of Missions at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) and has taught Missions and Intercultural Studies at RTS since 1998. He has a Doctor of Ministry from RTS and a PhD in Intercultural Studies from Trinity International University. He brings together life experience both as a missionary in Kenya and Australia and as a Navy Chaplain and has traveled and taught extensively in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. He has planted or pastored churches on three continents.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course participants will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Awareness of the biblical ontology of the human person as a relational and communicative being, drawing implications for the task of intercultural missions.

2. Familiarity with important theories of intercultural communication, with a critique of the underlying assumptions of each and implications for the task of intercultural missional ministry.

3. Awareness of resources for field research in intercultural communication issues.

4. Appreciation for the complex challenges confronting intercultural communication of the Christian Gospel, together with increased confidence in its cross-cultural communicability.

5. Development of skills for teaching and practicing intercultural communication.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


RECOMMENDED READING:


Sire, James W. 1946. The universe next door. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.


**COURSE ASSESSMENT:**

1. Participants will complete required pre-course readings. Participants will be prompt and regular in class attendance and will join actively in class discussions, drawing upon both course readings and personal experience.

2. Participants will write a major paper or project (18-20 pages, including reference list) on a pre-approved topic relating to intercultural communication.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Dr. Larsen is available by appointment. Appointments may be arranged with the professor after class or by e-mail (slarsen@rts.edu).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       | Welcome, introductions, course expectation cards  
Devotional by professor  
Course overview; Bloom=s taxonomy of learning  
Schedule of student class devotionals and course paper due date  
Cultural Values Questionnaire  
Discussion of E.T. Hall, *Beyond Culture*  
Elements and dimensions of communication; HC and LC cultures |
| 2       | Class Devotional  
Values and communication  
Discussion of Lustig and Koester, *Intercultural Competence*  
Gullahorn & Gullahorn, Brislin, & Kohl: w-curve |
| 3       | Class Devotional  
Discussion of Kim and Gudykunst, *Theories in Intercultural Communication*  
Hofstede=s four tensions |
| 4       | Devotional by designated student  
Discussion of B. Peterson, *Cultural Intelligence*  
Toward a Biblical theology of preaching across cultures  
Implications for cross-cultural communication: Proclamation or Reception?  
Intercultural Communication and Multicultural Teams |